

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission**

**June 19, 2018**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at One Penn Plaza East, Board Room, Newark, NJ 07105.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (present); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (present)

Approval of the May 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the May 22, 2018 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

OPRA Request

At the advice of counsel, Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that she has requested an extension on the OPRA Request to gather all of the information and review same. She advised that she and counsel will meet after the board meeting. Ms. Stuckey anticipates that all documents will be sent out by the deadline of June 22, 2018.

Resolution #18-17 to approve the June, 2018 Treasurers Report

Ms. Stuckey advised the Commission that she was informed by New Jersey Transit that the warranty expires on all computers every five years and all computers must be replaced at that time. Her computer is scheduled to be replaced this month and Mr. Hawkins computer will be replaced in six months. The current Treasures Report reflects the cost of replacing her computer.

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #18-17 to approve the June, 2018 Treasurers Report. All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

- A. Commander Ellis Moose - Ms. Stuckey informed the Commission that the Prevention officer from Coast Guard Sector New York appeared before the Commission with Captain Day when they were dealing with the issues of the safety netting on the Bayonne Bridge. He helped to resolve the issue to a workable solution. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in November of 2017 and passed away on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He left behind a wife and two preteen children. There is a scholarship fund set up for his children's education. Ms. Stuckey plans to make a personal donation and advised if any of the Commissioners are interested, please see her and she will give them the information.
- B. Hudson River Update - Since the Commission's last meeting there have not been any reports of any transport jobs on the Hudson River.
- C. Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Process - The Committee will conduct the final three interviews today. The next step in the process is for Ms. Stuckey to provide the Commission with a right up of each candidate and the Committee's recommendations. Ms. Stuckey will then put a resolution on the agenda for the July meeting for the Commission to vote on.
- D. Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection process - the 61 candidates that passed the first round of cuts are currently being scheduled for their testing at the Career Counseling Services center.
- E. FY18 Audit - Ms. Stuckey will send out the RFP's to the 21 persons on Treasury's website of Cooperative Purchasing

Participants. Once the quotes are received, Ms. Stuckey will schedule a meeting with the Audit Committee to review them and select an auditor. The Commission will continue to utilize the recommendations from the Audit Evaluation Committee and will pick the auditor based on cost.

- F. July Board Meeting - Transit has requested that the Commission hold its July board meeting on the tenth floor. This will require all participants to enter through the door located between the NJ transit entrance and the blue cross blue shield entrance. Ms. Stuckey will provide them with a list of the people that will be attending to help the process move along quicker.
- G. September Board Meeting - There will be a conflict with the September Board meeting due to holidays and graduations. Ms. Stuckey has received a request from Commissioner Shisha to see if the Commission could move the meeting up to Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. This date would actually work better for Ms. Stuckey since she will be spending the following two weeks at the Pilot Station house conducting apprentice selection interviews. She will send out a follow-up email for the Commissioners to check their calendars to let her know if that date works for all.
- H. Monthly Apprentice Training Report - Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with a copy and reminded the Commission that Apprentice Paul Torres is currently studying and will take his state exam the week of July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- I. Captain Edward Sweeney - Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with an article that was published by the Professional Mariner in their January, 1997 issue. It tells the story of the heroic effort made by Captain Edward Sweeney when he made the leap from the pilot boat to a tanker that was in danger of colliding with another tanker filled with gas. He ran up the bridge and took steps to lessen the impact of the collision. Captain Sweeney was in attendance to be honored for his many years of service, but Ms. Stuckey just wanted to take a moment to remind all of the type of commitment and dedication he has given to his career.
- J. Fleet Week - Ms. Stuckey attended Fleet Week this year and rode in on the USS Arlington with New York Sandy Hook Pilot Captain Drew Glassing and Captain Jeffrey McAllister was

the docking pilot. This year there were 8 military vessels and 4 Marine Police and FDNY vessels. Although the parade was smaller, it was still a wonderful day filled with excitement and electricity.

- K. Harbor Ops Meeting - The next Harbor Ops meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at Fort Wadsworth. The agenda has not been published yet; however, Ms. Stuckey will attend the meeting and report back to the Commission at the July meeting.
- L. Legislative Cruise - Ms. Stuckey thanked the Sandy Hook Pilots Association in co-hosting and helping to put the cruise together.
- M. Captain of the Port Change of Command Ceremony - Ms. Stuckey has attended five change of command ceremonies during her tenure and believes this was one of the best. There was a gun salute for Captain Day and also he and his wife were serenaded by a bagpipe band as they exited the stage. Although it was sad to see Captain Day depart, Ms. Stuckey believes that Captain Tama is going to be a great ally.
- N. Silver Bell Awards Dinner - Ms. Stuckey and Mr. Hawkins were able to attend Seamen's Church Silver Bell Awards Dinner courtesy of Sandy Hook. Ms. Stuckey has not attended their annual dinner since she left to work with the Commission. It was a really nice function and has definitely been improved upon. Ms. Stuckey especially enjoyed the parade of vessels and the opportunity to mingle with some of her old colleagues.
- O. Summer Schedule - Thursday is the official first day of summer. Starting next week, the Commission will begin its summer hours which means the office will close at 2pm on Friday's.
- P. Vacation Schedules - Ms. Stuckey is planning on taking vacation time the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has not worked the exact details and will let the Commission know when they are finalized. Mr. Hawkins does not have any vacation time scheduled; however, he will be out for about three days sometime in the next 2-4 weeks for dental surgery.

Q. Articles of Interest - Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with several articles of interest and advised them to read them at their leisure.

#### Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain John Oldmixon, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Oldmixon reported that Captain Day was relocated to Washington DC and Captain Tama is now the new Captain of the port for Coast Guard Sector New York.

Captain Oldmixon reported that there is now a steady flow of the large ships coming into the ports. The Coast Guard, VTS and the pilots are working together with the terminals to keep things working smoothly.

Comments from Captain Robert Flannery, Captain, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Flannery reported that the 14,000 TEU ships are coming in the ports more frequently and the system to raise the cranes is working very well.

Captain Flannery reported that when he went to San Francisco for training on the ULCV's and the SULCV's, Captain Tama was the one who gave them a lot of insight on those ships and that information has been very helpful to the pilots.

Captain Flannery congratulated Captain Sweeney on his retirement and for being a great colleague over the years.

Captain Flannery reported that he is now back to work after his back surgery and believes he feels better than he has in a very long time.

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Pension Surcharge Committee:

- I. Commissioner Shisha reported that there will be no change in the rates at this time, but will be reevaluated in September, 2018.

#### Resolution #18-18 to Honor Captain Edward Sweeney

Commissioner Dacey presented Captain Sweeney with Resolution #18-18.

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve Resolution #18-18 honoring Captain Edward Sweeney.

All voted in favor.

Captain Sweeney gave a brief summary of his career and thanked the Commission for all of their work in making the port pilots and docking pilot's relationship what it is today.

Resolution #18-13 to Adopt an Operating Budget for FY19

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to Adopt an Operating Budget for FY19.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #18-14 to Adjust Fees Charged to Maritime Pilots

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to Adjust Fees Charged to Maritime Pilots.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #18-15 to Approve Personnel Actions taken by the Commission

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to Approve Personnel Actions taken by the Commission.

All voted in favor.

Executive Session

WHEREAS, the open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body such as The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission may meet in closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters, and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to meet in closed session to discuss such matters.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Commission shall at this time meet in closed session to discuss such matters the substance of the closed session would be disclosed publicly only if it would not warrant an invasion of privacy or constitute a breach of the attorney client privilege.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:28 AM.

Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech that the Commission return to Public Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 10:57 AM.

Resolution #18-19 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Graham M. Merganthaler to a Pilot of the Fifth Grade Part B

A motion was made by Commissioner McEwing and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #18-19 to Approve the upgrade of Captain Graham Merganthaler to a Pilot of the fifth Grade Part B.

All voted in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 PM.